Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, said method comprising the steps of;

a) providing said component with a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations which share a common component interface and semantics;

b) instrumenting said component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of said program;

c) providing said component with a cost estimator for using said cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of said explicitly selectable implementations in running said program;

d) based on the costs estimated in step (c), selecting one of said explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of said program.

Claim 2 (original): A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a default implementation is used during said at least partial run.

Claim 3 (original): A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein selecting step (d) is carried out by an other component operable as a controller.

Claim 4 (original): A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein selecting step (d) is carried out by an application program.

Claim 5 (original): A computer readable medium readable by a computer and including computer instructions for carrying out a method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, said method comprising the steps of;

a) providing said component with a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations which share a common component interface and semantics;

b) instrumenting said component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of said program;

c) providing said component with a cost estimator for using said cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of said explicitly selectable implementations in running said program;

d) based on the costs estimated in step (c), selecting one of said explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of said program.

Claim 6 (original): A computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein a default implementation is used during said at least partial run.

Claim 7 (original): A computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein selecting step (d) is carried out by an other component operable as a controller.

Claim 8 (original): A computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein selecting step (d) is carried out by an application program.

Claim 9 (original): A computer program comprising a plurality of components which interact during running thereof, at least one of said components comprising:

a) a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations;

b) a common interface and semantics for receiving messages from an other one of said components and sending messages thereto;

c) an instrumentation for gathering cost-related information during at least a partial run of said computer program;

d) a cost estimator for using said cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of said explicit selectable alternative implementations; and

e) a selector for choosing one of said alternative implementations in response to a message received at said interface from one of an application program and an other one of said components.

Claim 10 (original): A computer program as set forth in claim 9, wherein one of said alternative implementations comprises a default implementation which is operational before operation of said selector.

Claim 11 (original): A computer program as set forth in claim 9, said selector being operable to choose an alternative implementation based upon a cost measurement by said instrumentation.